

Dear Paul,

12/4/91

Probably as a consequence of the open-heart surgery I lead an unusual life, at least schedule, these days. Having read a bit of Mark Lane's newest dreck and the Washington Post and having had breakfast, before I leave for my early-morning walking therapy in less than a half hour I begin to respond to your 11/29 at 4:15 a.m.! I sleep well but not long enough. However, I won't use the copier this early not to disturb Lil.

I appreciate your search for a copy of the long analysis I did of Lifton's indecency. I thought I'd sent you a copy because I was concerned that you were jeopardizing your own reputation by what I still regard as your atypical support and endorsement of one of the most dishonest of critics' books.

Since writing you I've gotten more confirmation of his having blackmailed the Baltimore policeman who'd been helping Livingstone and that man is the only one I can recall who ever even asked to look at the missing MDW file. The significance of that file is that it, too, destroys the fiction Lifton invented and commercialized so successfully. (I hear he blew the fortune he made from the hardback in the stock market.)

After this man borrowed that file, still in the MDW envelope in which it was mailed to me, he wrote me a letter ostensibly about something else in which he said he was very sorry that he had abused my trust in him and that he'd not come here again or be in a position to do it again. I then wondered why he wrote me that way and when ~~xxxx~~ I later went to the files to get that envelope and found it missing I knew why. There is no other possible explanation. I hope this does not mean that Lifton has the only copy of the lengthy and detailed analysis and commentary I then did, that perhaps I gave Wrone, who has no recollection of it, a copy.

While I cannot validate some of the stories that come to me unsolicited about Lifton and do not try to, if there is any truth in some of the more recent ones he may be close to flipping out again. While I do not want this to happen to anyone, few people deserve punishment more than he for the evil he has done and the harm he has done to all legit. criticism of the official mythology.

From a good and a dependable source who has first-person knowledge I learned years ago that when he was living with his parents, while rewriting the book or thereafter, they found his behavior so bad that they changed the locks to keep him out.

Perhaps whatever his mental problems is make him innocent of evil intent but the result is and has been evil, hurtful, misleading, misinformative, disinformational and confusing.

From what I hear he has given Stone a basis for criticizing all criticism of his commercialization and exploitation that Stone has used effectively with the media.

Fortunately Livingstone has not been here in a long time and his calls are infrequent. He appears to be completing High Treason II for which he has a publisher. I've asked him no questions about it.

Hope all is well with all of you and that you have a good holiday season. We are about as we were. And thanks for when you can complete your response. Best, *Harry*

Later. The MLW file and my analysis were in the same file folder.

Now that Stone's movie's opening is close I'll appreciate anything you get on it as rapidly as you can send it.

I hear the script is to be printed like a book, for sale.

Even for Lane, who has made both an art and a science of lyings, his Plausible Denial is a very bad book.

We do not have cable but I was given a cassette of the A & E Turner show and I've not looked at it. Before agreeing to be interviewed I got his assurance that he would not do what he then did do, solve the mystery.

I've had very little reaction to that airing, much less than for the last time Selby's was rerun byfar.

Back to Lifton: I suspect he's been talking to Ray Marcus. I suggested to Ray that he deposit his records at Hood and he liked the idea. Last I heard he said he'd have gone over them by April, that he'd then send them. It makes no difference to me where Ray puts his things. My reason for making the suggestion is that I believe that over the years they are more likely to be seen and perhaps used there.

Greg Stone decided to leave Meagher's records there. When he was deparate for a place to store them without charge I arranged for that for six months during which they'd not be touched. Then suddenly Roger Weinman got a wild hair apparently egged on by Olicoff, he said some despicable and false things about me, filed an action in Baltimore, and when he saw Greg's will abandoned that. What he accomplished is that the records that would have been processed and ready for use are not and he put the college to some legal costs that could better have been spent on those records. I understand that Greg's sister and Sylvia's niece(s) have been there and are quite pleased. They should be there now and be able to see where and how they will be kept in a special area of the new library that will be moved into during the semester break.

I'm sorry these kinds of things happen. They make trouble and do nothing else. And usually, whether or not perceived, something selfish underlies it.

Again, it made no personal difference to me where Sylvia's records would be. I did and do believe they are more available at Hood and there those who know nothing about them will be directed to them. I can't picture anyone not a New Yorker making the expensive trip to see them when so many more are available elsewhere.

If those guys had stopped to think they'd have realized that what I did is the opposite of selfishness because all the time spent on other ~~men~~ records is time that will not be spent on mine.